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HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS

Letter dated 19 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General*

I have the honour to refer to document A/50/927-S/1996/262 of 11 April 1996, containing the text of a statement by the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Jammu and Kashmir at New York on 2 April 1996.

The Official Spokesman of the Government of India issued a statement in New Delhi on 3 April 1996 (see annex) rejecting the false allegations made in the OIC Contact Group's statement under reference.

I would appreciate it if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 112.

(Signed) Prakash SHAH
Permanent Representative

* At the request of the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations, a similar letter, transmitting the text of the statement contained in the annex to the present letter, was previously issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/1996/309.

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ANNEX

Statement by the Official Spokesman of the Government of India

We have seen a statement issued in New York on 2 April 1996 by the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Jammu and Kashmir making false allegations about recent incidents in Kashmir. The statement, which is clearly the handiwork of Pakistan, shows that OIC continues to be used by that country to purvey anti-India propaganda.

2. Contrary to what is stated in the OIC Contact Group statement, in the recent incidents at the Hazratbal Shrine the terrorists sought to desecrate the holy place which they had forcibly occupied and later threatened from an adjacent building to do the same. The action of the State Police was in response to the threat to the holy shrine from the terrorists and to protect themselves from the attacks launched by the terrorists against them. The terrorist groups and their mentors in Pakistan who are responsible for the violence in Kashmir bear the responsibility for the suffering and sorrow which are the inevitable companions of violence.

3. It has already been clarified and it is reiterated that the kidnapping and tragic murder of Jalil Andrabi was not a custodial death. The security forces had no hand whatsoever in this tragedy. Senior police officials are investigating the case and no effort will be spared to apprehend those who have been guilty of this heinous crime.

4. Along with the rest of the country, Jammu and Kashmir will soon elect members to the Lok Sabha. This electoral exercise will witness the resumption of the political process. Pakistan is doing its utmost to thwart that process in Jammu and Kashmir, for it wishes to continue the relentless and ruthless proxy war which it is waging against India. It will not help the process of restoring normalcy and peace in Jammu and Kashmir if the OIC Contact Group permits itself to be used by Pakistan to issue inaccurate and provocative statements against India.

New Delhi, 3 April 1996.